

**MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST  
DETERMINATION OF ELIGIBILITY FORM**

NR Eligible: yes ☐  
no ☐

Property Name: Lowndes Hall Inventory Number: AL-VII-A-048  
Address: Lowndes Hall, College Avenue City: Frostburg Zip Code: 21532  
County: Allegheny USGS Topographic Map: Frostburg  
Owner: Frostburg State University Is the property being evaluated a district? ☐ yes  
Tax Parcel Number: 486E Tax Map Number: 011/201 Tax Account ID Number: \_\_\_\_\_  
Project: Frostburg Cell Tower Agency: FCC  
Site visit by MHT Staff: ☐ no ☐ yes Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
Is the property located within a historic district? ☐ yes ☒ No

*If the property is within a district*

District Inventory Number: \_\_\_\_\_

NR-listed district ☐ yes Eligible district ☐ yes District Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Preparer's Recommendation: Contributing resource ☐ yes ☐ no Non-contributing but eligible in another context ☐

*If the property is not within a district (or the property is a district)*

Preparer's Recommendation: Eligible ☐ yes ☒ no

Criteria: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D Considerations: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐ F ☐ G ☐ None

Documentation on the property/district is presented in:

Description of Property and Eligibility Determination: *(Use continuation sheet if necessary and attach map and photo)*

**DESCRIPTION**

The two-story with full attic, nine-bay, five-pile Neoclassical administration building is located on the Frostburg State University Campus, accessible from a U-shaped parking lot and access road, off of College Avenue in Frostburg, Maryland. The American bond brick structure with a watertable on the southeast, southwest, and northwest facades has a low-pitched hipped, platform roof and a plain frieze. Two arched top dormers are located on the slope of front façade roof. A brick interior chimney is located north on the flat roof.

The full-height front gable roof entry portico with Corinthian columns, pediment, and entablature leads up a set of three stairs and a set of two stairs to a set of double doors flanked by two single doors, each with six lights. A three part transom contains a central section with 18 lights and is flanked by two smaller sections, each with nine lights. Decorative garland detailing is located within pediment and the black letters indicates the name of the building, Lowndes Hall.

On the northwest, there is a central, convex bay. The bay has six one-over-one sash windows, three with concrete lintels. A concrete ramp with metal railings extends from the flat of a small rise in elevation at the front façade to the second floor on the north of the northwest façade.

**MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST REVIEW**

Eligibility recommended ☒ Eligibility not recommended ☐

Criteria: ☒ A ☐ B ☒ C ☐ D Considerations: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐ F ☐ G ☐ None

Comments: \_\_\_\_\_

Amelia R. Apple  
Reviewer, Office of Preservation Services

8/3/09

Date

Blanca  
Reviewer, NR Program

7/28/09

Date

200902334

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Continuation Sheet No. 1

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On the southeast façade, there is a central convex bay with three one-over-one sash windows with concrete lintels, a recessed door surrounded by pilaster and a pediment.

The symmetrical fenestration consists of one-over-one sash windows have concrete lintels and brick jack arches. Windows are located in each bay on the first and second stories, but not in central concave bays or the entry porch. One-light windows are located at ground level on the northeast, front façade.

Renovations to the Lowndes Hall, including changes to classrooms and support systems, were made in 1981 (Frostburg State University Archives).

### **HISTORY**

The current administrative building, Lowndes Hall, on the Frostburg State University is centrally located on campus, close by buildings built in at the turn of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, when the school was established. Lowndes Hall became the library and administrative offices for the Frostburg State University, then the Frostburg State Teachers College, in 1954, because of the necessity for an entire building for administration and the library's growing 18,000 volume collection (*Cumberland-Times*, 1950).

A corner stone dated 1953 is located at the north corner of the building. Construction groundbreaking took place in November of 1952, with Miss Lillian C. Compton, president of the college presiding over the ceremony (*Cumberland Times*, 1952). The dedication of the building took place on March 28, 1954 at 2:30pm. Present at the ceremony included Governor Theodore R. McKeldin, United States Senator J. Glenn Beall, and Miss Elizabeth Lowndes, daughter of the late Governor Lowndes, and Mr. and Mrs. Lloyd Lowndes and their daughter, Susa, Mr. and Mrs. Bladen Lowndes, and their son Tasker G. Lowndes (*Cumberland-Times*, 1954).

A plaque commissioned by the Student Government Association is stationed on the northeast (front) façade next to the entry portico. It reads, "In 1954 Lowndes Hall was completed. This building was named for two members of the Lowndes family – Lloyd, former governor of Maryland, and his son Tasker, former President of the Maryland Board of Education." Governor Lowndes, serving in office from 1896 to 1900 and President of the State Board of Education for 17 years, signed the appropriations bill which established the State Normal School #2 in Frostburg (Frostburg State University Archives).

Benson Oder, the editor and publisher of the Frostburg Mining Journal and several individuals from Allegany County proposed and pushed for legislation for an educational institution. Senator David E. Dick introduced a bill for \$25,000 to create such a school. The residents of Frostburg dedicated monies for land for the school and the state provided \$20,000 for its construction with an additional \$5,000 being granted annually (Stegmaier, et. al., 1976). The Frostburg State University was founded as the State Normal School #2 in 1898, with 57 students enrolled in the program during its first year in 1902 (Thomas and Williams 1969).. In 1934, it expanded to become a four-year college for teachers.

In 1935, the name of the institution was changed to the State Teachers' College at Frostburg (Frostburg State University, 2009). The college was accredited by the American Association of Colleges for Teacher Education in 1949. Between 1950 and 1951, the State Legislature funded a 40-acre land acquisition for five new buildings. In 1953, the college was accredited by the Middle States Associations of Colleges and Secondary Schools and reaccredited by the National Council for Accreditation of Teacher Education. The college started a Master of Education program in 1958. In 1960, the college began offering a four-year program for arts, sciences, and letters, targeted for students preparing for Senior High School teaching positions. In 1962, the college offered four-year pre-professional programs in medicine, dentistry, law, theology, and pharmacy. A Master of Arts and Master of Science program was offered beginning in 1960 (The Frostburg Sesquicentennial Committee, 1962). An aerial photograph of the college in 1962 shows several buildings located on campus, including the administration buildings (Lowndes Hall), a Women's Residence Hall (just east of Lowndes Hall), Old Main, which is currently Listed on the National Register of Historic Places and at the time was used for classrooms, a Men's Residence Hall, a Science Building, an Auditorium and Gymnasium, the Pullen School, a Dining Hall and Student Union, and a Day Student Room (Frostburg Sesquicentennial Committee, 1962).

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In 1988, the institution joined the University System of Maryland, becoming Frostburg State University, one of 11 State 4-year programs. In 1990, students enrolled in the Frederick MBA program (Frostburg State University, 2009).

**ASSESSMENT**

Lowndes Hall was evaluated according to the criteria in *National Register Bulletin 15: How to Apply the National Register Criteria for Evaluation* (Andrus & Shrimpton 2002). Although the property does not fall into designated historic contexts for the state, it is associated with the local historic context of the colleges in Maryland and specifically Frostburg State University. Lowndes Hall is recommended **not eligible** for the National Register of Historic Places under all four criteria.

The integrity of Lowndes Hall was assessed on-site. It was found that the building does not hold individual significance to associate it with the period of significance of the Normal School #2, to which a large number of existing structures belong. The building is located on the main row of buildings for Frostburg State University is prominent and associates it with the present function of the Frostburg State University. It does not retain integrity of location in the context of the Normal School #2, because the original building in that location was demolished. Although it does mimic the buildings of the original Normal School #2, it was constructed much later than the buildings of the original Normal School #2. It does not hold integrity of design because it was altered several times since 1954, including major renovations in 1981. The brick institutional building on the campus of Frostburg State University is neither a distinct nor exemplary example of the style. The building lacks integrity of the original setting of the Normal School #2. It is not consistent with the period of existence of the State Normal School #2. The building does not have integrity of materials and workmanship in relationship to the original Normal School #2, because the building, although superficially similar to other buildings, does not retain the quality of original buildings.

Lowndes Hall is not eligible under Criterion A for association with an important event or trend. The activities of the Frostburg State University during the mid-20<sup>th</sup> century to present were fairly typical of college campuses across the country. The college during this time period does not reflect the original intent of the State Normal School #2, which may be eligible under a separate evaluation. There is no specific event or distinctive trend that identifies Lowndes Hall.

Lowndes Hall is not eligible under Criterion B for its association with significant people. Lowndes Hall was dedicated to Governor Lloyd Lowndes who signed an appropriations bill that founded the State Normal School #2. However, no specific person is associated with this particular building, during the period of the Frostburg State University. As expected, several important persons graduated from or were involved with the school throughout its history. However, no individuals have been identified with Lowndes Hall in particular.

Lowndes Hall is not eligible under Criterion C for architectural significance. Its neoclassical style is distinctive of a tradition, but the stylistic elements are common throughout the campus. It is not a particularly unique example within Maryland.

Lowndes Hall is not eligible under Criterion D for information potential. The building and its immediate surroundings have been disturbed and would yield little information through archaeological investigation that can already be obtained through written records.

The educational history of the Frostburg State University is rooted in its originals at the State Normal School #2. It is at this point in time that the school holds its greatest significance. Frostburg State University and buildings dating to this period and other buildings associated with it should be evaluated further.

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**Bibliography**

Andrus, Patrick W. and Rebecca H. Shrimpton. *National Register Bulletin 15: How to Apply the National Register Criteria for Evaluation*. Washington DC: National Park Service, 1990.

*Cumberland Times*, "Board Orders State College Library Design Green Light Signal Given For Plans of Frostburg Building." 1950.

*Cumberland Times*, "Ground-Breaking Program Held At Frostburg College." November 18, 1982.

*Cumberland Times*, "Thinkers Praised by McKeldin at Dedication." March 29, 1954.

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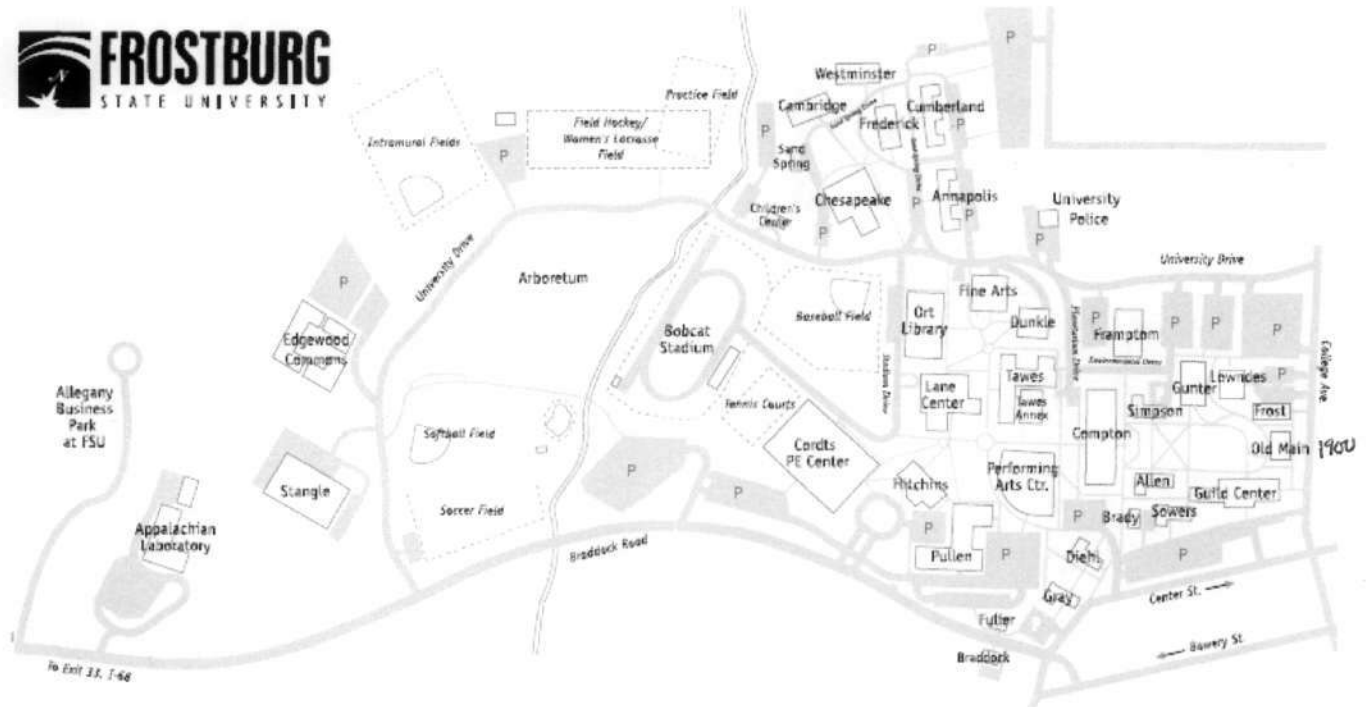
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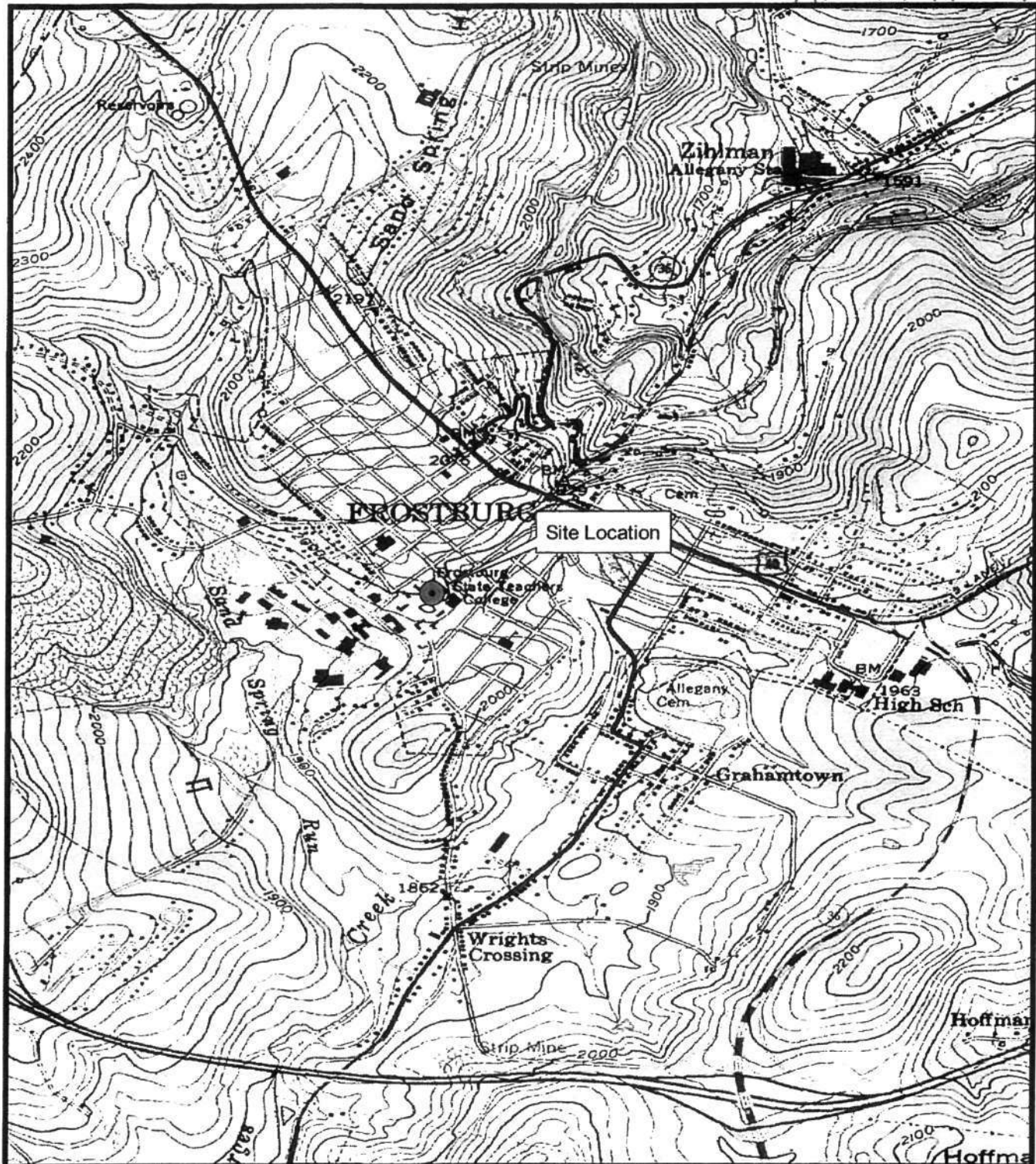
Prepared by: Suzanne Stasiulatis

Date Prepared: June 4, 2009





AL-VII-A-048



● Approximate Site Location

Basemap: USGS Quadrangle Map - Frostburg

H:\09\09-08389-005\GIS\Vicinity Map - Frostburg.mxd



## US Cellular - Frostburg

PROJECT NO: 09-08389-005

Figure 1 - Vicinity Map

0 500 1,000 2,000  
Feet

Scale: 1 inch = 2,000 feet

**RETTEW**  
SV

AL-VII-A-048

PHOTOGRAPH LOG - LOWNDES HALL, FROSTBURG STATE UNIVERSITY, FROSTBURG, MD

DIGITAL IMAGE CODE	DESCRIPTION	DIRECTION FACING
AL-V-A-0047_2009-05-29_01.TIF	Lowndes Hall - northeastern façade	southwest
AL-V-A-0047_2009-05-29_02.TIF	Lowndes Hall - southeastern façade	northwest
AL-V-A-0047_2009-05-29_03.TIF	Lowndes Hall - southwestern façade	northwest
AL-V-A-0047_2009-05-29_04.TIF	Lowndes Hall - northwestern façade	southeast
AL-V-A-0047_2009-05-29_05.TIF	Lowndes Hall - northeastern entrance	southwest

\*Photographs are printed on Hewlet-Packard HP Premium Plus Photo Paper with HP Viverra inks (95 and 97 tri-color)

\*\*Data is stored on a CD-R Gold; brand: Apogee; make: CD-74-GAJ;  
dye type: Gold Phthalocyanine



LOWNDES HALL



Lowndes Hall, Frostburg State University AL-VII-A-CAB

Allegany County, MD

June 5, 2009

MO SHPO

Northeast facade, Lowndes Hall

Photo #1





Lowndes Hall, Frostburg State University AL-VII-A-048

Allegheny County, MD

June 5, 2009

MD SHPO

Southeast facade

Photo #2





Lewins Hall, Frostburg State University AL-VII -A-048

Allagany County, MD

June 5, 2009

MD SHPO

Southwest facade

Photo #3

Plus

HP Premium Plus

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LOWNDES HALL

Corvallis Hall, Frostburg State University, AL-VII-A-048

Allegheny County, MD

June 5, 2009

MD State  
Northwest facade

Photo #41



HP Premium Plus



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HP Premium Plus



HP Premium Plus





LOWNDES HALL

Lowndes Hall, Frostburg State University AL-VII -A-048

Allegheny County, MD

June 5, 2009

MD 51100

northeast facade, entrance

Photo #15

